29th August 1961]

Madras State Electricity Board

* 282 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Electricity be pleased to state the amount spent on the purchase of stores by the Madras Electricity Board during the years 1958–59 and 1959–60 and the agency through which the purchases were made?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Stores, other than heavy plant and machinery directly charged to works in projects, worth Rs. 787 lakhs and Rs. 680·1 lakhs were purchased in 1958–59 and 1959–60 respectively. Stores other than cement and steel were purchased by placing orders direct on the firms after calling for tenders. Cement and steel were purchased through the India Stores Department and Iron and Steel Controller, respectively.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, is there a Purchases Committee?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I have no information.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to find out whether the purchases are made on the recommendation of the Purchases Committee, if it exists?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I want notice, Sir.

* 283 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Electricity be pleased to state—

(*a*) the method adopted by the Madras State Electricity Board to secure supplies of concrete posts for the current year; and

(*b*) the rate at which each variety of post is being obtained?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) Concrete posts required by the Board are mainly manufactured departmentally. Extra requirements are obtained from contractors selected on the basis of open tenders.

(*b*) The estimated cost of departmental manufacture excluding overhead charges are—

(i) 20 feet pole—Rs. 37.

(ii) 24 feet pole—Rs. 65 to 70.

(iii) 27 feet pole—Rs. 82.

(iv) 30 feet pole—Rs. 103.

If the departmental overhead charges are added, the departmental cost of manufacture of 24 feet length poles would vary between Rs. 75 and 80 per pole.

The contract rate for 24 feet length poles for which orders have been placed for supply during the current year is Rs 75 per pole.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : When the private contractors were given the contract for the manufacture of these concrete poles, were not specifications given to them so that the quality of the poles may be maintained?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The poles to be supplied have more or less to be on the same standard as the poles manufactured by the department. The specifications must have been given to them.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : I am given to understand that the poles are manufactured by the department by what is called the vibratory method. That is, in the process of manufacturing all these concrete posts, the whole thing is vibrated by the machine so that the air bubbles may not be contained in the concrete. But our contractors are not conforming themselves to this specification, which the department itself follows in the manufacture of these concrete posts.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I have no such complaint.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : May I request the Hon. Minister to find out whether the contractor has ever told the department that he was not in a position to vibrate the poles which he manufactures?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I would like the hon. Member to give this complaint to me in writing. I shall then attend to it.

* 284 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Electricity be pleased to state, with reference to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 106 on 3rd March 1961—

(*a*) the total amount of money deposited in the Madras State Electricity Board by the consumers of electricity as on 1st March 1961;

(*b*) the total amount of loan raised from the public by the Electricity Board as on 1st March 1961; and

(*c*) the amount of loan raised from the Government by the Electricity Board as on 1st March 1961?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) Rs. 294·97 lakhs.

(*b*) Rs. 549·94 lakhs.

(*c*) Rs. 102·81 crores.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : The money that has been received by the department from the consumers by way of deposit goes to several crores of rupees, and the interest that is given to them is less than three per cent. But the Government are collecting more than four per cent for the amount that has been lent to the department. Our money it appears is not worth.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Not that it is not worth. We receive money for the first category from the consumers for the